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Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic

Letter dated 14 February 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to make reference to the seventh Ministerial Meeting of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic, which took place in Montevideo on 15 and 16 January 2013.

On behalf of Uruguay, in its capacity as host of the seventh Ministerial Meeting of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the final Montevideo Declaration (annex I) and the Montevideo Plan of Action (see annex II) adopted at the meeting as well as two specific declarations on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (see annex III) and the situation in Guinea-Bissau (see annex IV).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annexes were to be circulated as a document of the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 35.

(*Signed*) José Luis **Cancela**
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Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the United Nations

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Annex I to the letter dated 14 February 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the Secretary-General

Seventh Ministerial Meeting of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic

Montevideo Declaration

Preamble

We, the Ministers of the Member States of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic, hereinafter referred to as "the Zone", meeting in Montevideo on 15 and 16 January 2013, on the occasion of the seventh Ministerial Meeting of "the Zone";

1. Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 41/11 of 27 October 1986, in which the Atlantic Ocean, in the region situated between Africa and South America, was solemnly declared "Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic", as well as the other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly of the United Nations;

2. Recalling also the Final Declaration and the Plan of Action adopted at the sixth Ministerial Meeting of Member States of the Zone held in Luanda, Angola, on 18 and 19 June 2007;

3. Welcoming the conclusions of the Brasilia round table held in 2010 with a view to further refining the identification of areas for enhanced cooperation among member States of the Zone;

4. Welcoming also the convening by Uruguay of the Senior Officials Meeting of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic, on the margins of the sixty-seventh General Assembly of the United Nations, on 28 September 2012, and expressing the view that this initiative should be held annually, with a view to intensifying dialogue and cooperation among members of the Zone on issues of relevance to the Zone and to the international agenda;

5. Reaffirming the role of the Zone as a forum for increased integration among its member States and reiterating the commitment to further strengthen dialogue and cooperation within the Zone and with organizations and mechanisms integrated by Member States, such as the African Union and the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR);

6. Recalling, in this regard, the valuable contribution made by the first Africa-South America Summit, held in Abuja from 26 to 30 November 2006, as well by the second Africa-South America Summit, held in Isla Margarita, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on 26 and 27 September 2009, at which the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic was recognized as an important instrument for promoting peace and security and which encouraged continued dialogue and cooperation within the Zone;

7. Underlining the need to build a world order based on a multipolarity of cooperation and solidarity, and expressing our firm commitment to contribute to the achievement of this goal through cooperation in the Zone and in our relations with

other organizations and mechanisms, for the benefit of international peace and security;

8. Reaffirming our commitment to consolidating the South Atlantic as a zone of peace and cooperation, free from nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction;

Purposes and principles

9. Affirm that our endeavours are guided by the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter and by full respect for the principles of international law, including the principles of sovereignty and sovereign equality of States, territorial integrity, settlement of international disputes by peaceful means and non-intervention in the internal affairs of States;

10. Reiterate that the South Atlantic must remain a region committed to promoting peace, security, cooperation, democracy, respect for human rights, sustainable development, economic prosperity, socioeconomic inclusion and cultural integration and solidarity among the member States of the Zone;

11. Stress the need to continue to preserve the South Atlantic region free from the scourge of war, the instability of conflict, drug trafficking and piracy;

12. Reiterate the commitment of the member States of the Zone to democracy and political pluralism and to the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, and in this regard welcome the contribution made by the Human Rights Council and the Peacebuilding Commission of the United Nations, which represent a concrete achievement in the implementation of the 2005 World Summit;

13. Agree that the Zone must be a forum for the development of cooperation among its member States in areas such as science and technology, education, capacity-building, coastal surveillance, environment, defence, strengthening of national institutions, trade, sports, tourism, economy, communications, transport, culture and political dialogue, and recall the strong potential the South Atlantic presents for the socioeconomic development of the member States of the Zone;

14. Decide that the Zone must be revitalized in order to promote increased dialogue, cooperation initiatives and collaboration for the direct benefit of all members of the Zone, and in this regard welcome the Luanda Plan of Action and the adoption of the Montevideo Plan of Action, based on the results of the workshop held in Brasilia in December 2010, as well as the concrete measures, annexed to the Plan of Action;

15. Stress that the implementation of the objectives of the Zone requires the strengthening of capacities of its member States, including through the exchange of best practices in the areas identified for the revitalization of the Zone;

Global governance

16. Welcome the ongoing efforts aimed at reforming the United Nations in order to render the Organization better equipped to deal with the current challenges to international peace and security, and in this regard call for an urgent reform of the Security Council, an essential element of our overall effort to reform the United Nations, express support for its enlargement in order to make it more broadly

representative for the developing countries, efficient and transparent and, thus, to further enhance its effectiveness, its legitimacy and the implementation of its decisions and, moreover, consider the essential need for the revitalization of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council;

17. Recognize the importance of the global financial architecture in maintaining the stability and integrity of the global monetary and financial system, and call for a more representative international financial architecture, with an increase in the voice and representation of developing countries, which are now significant contributors to global recovery;

18. Recall the fact that most of the members of the Zone have either ratified or signed the Rome Statute, and recognize that the former and current prosecutor of the International Criminal Court are nationals of member States of the Zone;

19. Welcome the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, recognize the important contribution of the International Criminal Court to the fight against impunity for the most serious crimes of international concern, express concern about some Security Council practices regarding the referrals already made to the Court, and stress the importance of full and consistent cooperation by all members of the international community with the International Criminal Court;

Disarmament

20. Reiterate our commitment to consolidating the South Atlantic as a zone of peace and cooperation, free from nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, and call upon other States to recognize it as such;

21. Affirm that the very existence of weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons, continues to pose a grave threat to mankind and to instigate tension and mistrust among peoples;

22. Consider that the advancement of the multilateral disarmament agenda, in particular the need to fulfil the nuclear disarmament obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, should be a matter of high priority for the member States of the Zone;

23. Express our support for the conclusion of a legally binding comprehensive framework of mutually reinforcing instruments, including a nuclear weapons convention, that lead to effective, irreversible and transparent nuclear disarmament, with a view to achieving the objective of the complete elimination of all nuclear weapons. Such a framework should include clearly defined benchmarks and timelines, and should be backed by a strong system of verification;

24. Remain concerned about the danger to humanity posed by the possibility that nuclear weapons could be used, and recall the deep concern expressed by the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons;

25. Note that nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation are inextricably linked, requiring continuous and irreversible progress on both fronts;

26. Highlight the importance of the plan of action agreed upon at the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, in particular the steps by the nuclear-weapon States to fulfil their unequivocal undertaking to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals;

27. Recall the 1994 Declaration of the Zone on the Denuclearization of the South Atlantic adopted by the third Ministerial Meeting and accordingly undertake all efforts to prohibit and prevent in their respective territories and jurisdictional waters, the testing, use, manufacture, production, acquisition, receipt, storage, installation, deployment and possession of any nuclear weapon, as well as to refrain from engaging in, encouraging or authorizing, directly or indirectly, any of these activities in the South Atlantic; and in this sense, call on the international community to adhere to the status of the Zone;

28. Note with satisfaction the forty-fifth anniversary of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) and that both that Treaty and the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba) are now in force, and in this regard urge the international community to fully observe the denuclearized status of the Zone;

29. Also note with appreciation the twentieth anniversary of the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials, the only existing binational organization of safeguards in the world;

30. Reaffirm our commitment to nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the three pillars of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and in this regard, reaffirm the inalienable rights of the member States of the Zone to engage in research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination in conformity with articles I, II, III and IV of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;

31. Express our continued support for the successful convening of a conference on the establishment of a zone free from nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East;

32. Stress the need for the full implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects, and support efforts to curb the illegal flow of arms and ammunition, particularly within the Zone;

33. Underline the need also to regulate the legal trade in conventional arms, including small arms and light weapons and ammunition, and express their support for the final United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty, to be held in March 2013;

34. Urge States that have not done so to sign, ratify and implement the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction and to cooperate in the field of demining and on issues relating to international cooperation and assistance, including victim assistance;

35. Welcome the fifteenth anniversary of the Chemical Weapons Convention and, while calling on all States that have not yet done so to join the Convention,

express appreciation for the fact that all members of the Zone are members of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons;

36. Recall the resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly related to a nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas, and welcome the continued contribution that the Antarctic Treaty and the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Pelindaba are making towards freeing the southern hemisphere and adjacent areas covered by those treaties from nuclear weapons;

Peace and security

37. Reaffirm the importance of preventive diplomacy, mediation, good offices, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding for the maintenance of international peace and security as well as their key role in avoiding the escalation of disputes into conflicts and in advancing conflict resolution;

38. Reaffirm also the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding, and stress the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and the need to increase their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution;

39. Reaffirm further our commitment to promote and protect the rights and welfare of children in armed conflicts, welcome the significant advances and innovations that have been achieved over the past several years, and welcome in particular the adoption of Security Council resolution 2068 (2012) of 19 September 2012 and previous resolutions on this matter;

40. Share a common view that the international community must be rigorous and constant in its efforts to value, pursue and exhaust all peaceful and diplomatic means available in dealing with situations of conflict, in line with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations,

41. Recall the 2005 United Nations Summit Outcome and the responsibility of each Member State to protect its population from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, and recognize the helpful contribution by Brazil through the concept of the responsibility while protecting as an important complement to the concept of the responsibility to protect and express our willingness to engage in further dialogue on this relevant issue;

42. Stress that special attention must be given to the interdependence between security and development, as they are mutually supportive and key in achieving sustainable peace, underline that many conflicts have a strong socioeconomic component, which normally aggravates other conflict drivers, and acknowledge the need to ensure that United Nations activities designed to help countries build peace, promote human rights and the rule of law, reduce poverty and build strong democratic States are appropriately and effectively integrated;

43. Welcome the positive developments under way in African countries, in particular in those member States of the Zone in post-conflict situations, and invite the international community, including the United Nations, regional and subregional organizations and international financial institutions, to complement and strengthen

the peacebuilding and development efforts being made by the Governments of these countries;

44. Express our willingness to contribute to the enhancement of the existing mechanisms and capacities of prevention and peaceful resolution of conflicts within the Zone, as well as support peacebuilding efforts in the increasing number of countries emerging from conflict in Africa, in particular disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform, including through the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission and the African Union Framework for Reconstruction and Development;

45. Express support for the leadership of the African Union Peace and Security Council in its efforts to prevent and resolve conflicts in Africa according to Chapter VIII of the Charter, bearing in mind the primary responsibility of the United Nations Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. In this regard, commend the progress made in the resolution of conflicts in Africa and call upon the international community to continue to complement efforts aimed at achieving lasting and durable solutions to remaining armed conflicts;

46. Express deep concern over the negative role of the illegal exploitation of natural resources in fuelling conflicts, note with satisfaction the ongoing efforts in Africa, in particular by member States of the Zone, for the implementation of a legal framework aimed at tackling this practice, and to this effect call upon the international community to support this effort;

47. Stress the importance of United Nations peacekeeping operations, to which some member States of the Zone are major contributors, and in this regard recognize the potential for cooperation to strengthen the capacity of the member States of the Zone to participate in peacekeeping operations;

48. Reaffirm also the need to support current peace processes and United Nations peacekeeping operations currently deployed in member States of the Zone. In this regard, reiterate the need to further explore cooperative mechanisms and opportunities in the field of peacekeeping operations;

49. Stress the importance of international support on issues such as capacity-building, logistics, information exchange and cooperation among national peacekeeping training schools and between these and regional peacekeeping training centres, among others;

50. Express support for the full implementation of the zero tolerance policy regarding cases of crimes committed by personnel deployed in the United Nations field missions, particularly in cases of sexual exploitation and abuse affecting women and children, and welcome efforts being undertaken by member States of the Zone to address such violations;

51. Recognize the importance of the role of regional and subregional peacekeeping operations, such as the current African Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) operations, as a complement to the role of the United Nations in this area, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, and the primary responsibility of the United Nations Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security, and stress the need

to further develop this role through capacity-building and cooperation among the member States of the Zone;

52. Further welcome the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 2033 (2012) regarding cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and regional organizations, in particular the African Union, commend the African Union for the establishment of a standby force, and stress the need for the full implementation of the 2005 World Summit Outcome regarding a 10-year plan for capacity-building with the African Union;

53. Express the determination of member States of the Zone to prevent and eliminate terrorism, in accordance with international law, including the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and relevant international conventions and protocols, in particular human rights law, refugee law and international humanitarian law;

54. Reaffirm the necessity of bringing to a speedy and unconditional end colonialism in all its forms and manifestations;

55. View with concern the continuation of situations that adversely affect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of some member States of the Zone;

56. Support efforts by member States of the Zone in promoting the principle of settling disputes by peaceful means and in finding negotiated solutions to territorial disputes affecting member States of the Zone;

57. Call for the resumption of negotiations between the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX) and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on the question of the Malvinas Islands (Falkland Islands) with a view to finding, as soon as possible, a peaceful, just and durable solution to the sovereignty dispute;

58. Reaffirm General Assembly resolution 31/49, which requires both parties in the sovereignty dispute over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the maritime surrounding areas, to refrain from taking decisions that would imply introducing unilateral modifications in the situation while the islands are going through the process recommended by the General Assembly resolutions. In this context, view with concern the development of illegitimate hydrocarbon exploration activities in the area under dispute, as well as the reinforcement of the military presence by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the area, in violation of United Nations General Assembly resolution 31/49;

Defence

59. Welcome the participation of defence ministers in the Ministerial Meeting of the Zone and the engagement of officials of the ministries of defence in the preparatory process for the meeting, which allows for new opportunities of cooperation in the field of defence;

60. Decide to strengthen cooperation for peaceful purposes in the field of defence;

61. Recognize that the members of the Zone share a common interest in reinforcing the South Atlantic as a zone of peace and cooperation, free from nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction;

62. Welcome the initiatives related to defence envisaged in the Montevideo Plan of Action, and express their commitment to further intensify cooperation in the framework of the Zone;

63. Acknowledge that initiatives aim at further increasing confidence among member States of the Zone in defence-related issues and at strengthening defence cooperation partnerships, so that the Zone reinforces its presence in the South Atlantic region;

64. Acknowledge also that initiatives should include mechanisms for efficient exchange of information among competent authorities and relevant institutions, military exercises, official visits, exchanges and other defence capacity-building programmes among member States of the Zone;

Development, including economic and financial issues

65. Affirm our commitment to finalizing the Doha Development Round of trade negotiations based on the existing mandates, which place development issues at the centre of the agenda, and on progress made to date;

66. Express serious concern at the lack of progress in the Doha Development Round of the World Trade Organization negotiations, and reiterate the call for the necessary flexibility and political will to break the current impasse in the negotiations, and for a balanced, ambitious, comprehensive and development-oriented outcome of the Doha Development Agenda multilateral trade negotiations;

67. Affirm our willingness to promote increased trade and investment relations within the Zone, and remain committed to an open and non-discriminatory, rules-based multilateral trading system, recognizing its positive impact in addressing the international financial crisis, as well as to growth and development;

68. Express deep concern with the present global economic and financial crisis. In this context, emphasize that austerity policies alone will not solve these problems. They must be accompanied by substantive policies designed to foster economic growth and social inclusion, including fiscal stimulus to investment;

69. Recognize the continuing need to promote global growth that produces sustainable benefits for reducing poverty;

70. Reaffirm that there is an urgent need to create an environment at the national and international levels that is conducive to the attainment of full and productive employment and decent work for all as a foundation for sustainable development and that an environment that supports investment, growth and entrepreneurship is essential to the creation of new job opportunities, and also reaffirms that opportunities for men and women to obtain productive work in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity are essential to ensuring the eradication of hunger and poverty, the improvement of economic and social well-being for all, the achievement of sustained economic growth and sustainable development of all nations and a fully inclusive and equitable globalization;

71. Call upon donors and international financial institutions to support developing countries, in line with their national priorities and strategies, in achieving their (social and economic) development by, inter alia, providing debt relief, concessionary aid and grants to support national efforts to enhance fiscal space, in particular that of the poorer and the least developed countries, and that such assistance should not impose onerous conditionalities that restrict the policy space of national Governments;

72. Call for the abolition of unfair trade practices, in particular in agriculture, and express their desire for a more just and fair global trading system for the benefit and welfare of the peoples of the Zone;

73. Acknowledge the potential for trade within the Zone, recognize the need to improve lines of communication and transportation, and express their intention to foster economic and commercial exchanges as well as the role of the private sector and civil society, and agree to actively support all efforts to intensify business cooperation as well as other activities geared towards increasing trade, investment and improve capital flows among member States of the Zone;

74. Emphasize the clear need to intensify and diversify connectivity between the countries of the Zone in terms of air and maritime transport, and reiterate that synergies have to be identified in order to strengthen cooperation, taking into account that the economic enablement of air and maritime connections will demand long-term efforts. To this end, encourage the consideration of additional initiatives, in order to make the connectivity between the two shores of the South Atlantic economically viable;

75. Emphasize that member States could benefit from the exchange of experiences in the area of seaport efficiency, to that end encourage members of the Zone to intensify dialogue on such policies, to disseminate good practices and to share experiences gained in implementing projects to improve efficiency in the management and competitiveness of seaports;

76. Stress the need for the United Nations to play a fundamental role in the promotion of international cooperation for development and the coherence, coordination and implementation of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and actions agreed upon by the international community;

77. Agree on the need to attach priority to the fight against hunger and poverty, and emphasize the need for the international community to fulfil previously agreed funding to the United Nations development agenda, with special focus on the Millennium Development Goals, as well as to promote innovative sources of additional funding on a sustainable basis to enable the fulfilment of the internationally agreed development goals;

78. Express concern that, despite important progresses achieved by individual countries, Africa as a continent is not on track to achieve the goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration by 2015, and in this regard emphasize that concerted efforts and continued support are required to fulfil the commitments and to address the special needs of Africa;

79. Emphasize the need for the international community to fully implement the global partnership for sustainable development in order to operationalize and

implement, at all levels, the commitments in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20);

80. Underline the need for exchange of information on successful national experiences and lessons learned as well as for technology transfer and facilitated access to scientific knowledge in order to foster South-South cooperation in, among others, the areas of clean fuels and environmentally friendly energy/biofuel, agricultural and livestock production, human resources development, HIV and AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, biotechnology, education, infrastructure development, communication technology, marine scientific research and fisheries control and surveillance;

81. Acknowledge the cultural linkages between Africa and South America. In this regard, encourage the enhancement of cultural cooperation bearing in mind the significance of the African diaspora in South American countries. Encourage also greater exchanges among their respective civil society including among non-governmental organizations related to youth, women and sports;

82. Emphasize the role of regional and subregional integration in improving international competitiveness of national economies and contributing to their development and recognize the importance of coordination with regional and subregional organizations within the space of the Zone, such as the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR), the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC). In this regard, express the importance of the preferential trade agreement between the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR) and the Southern African Customs Union (SACU), signed on 15 December 2008 in Costa de Sauipe, Brazil, and 3 April 2009, in Maseru, Lesotho, to enhance economic cooperation and trade between both regions;

Sustainable development and climate change

83. Affirm our commitment to a more just, equitable and prosperous future. In this regard, welcome the outcome document entitled "The future we want" of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, hosted by Brazil in June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro. The Conference was an important milestone in the promotion of sustainable development from which many processes have been launched. In this context, stress the importance of ensuring further commitment to the ongoing work on the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development during the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly;

84. Remain convinced that consensual decisions achieved through multilateralism are the best foundation for progress in the collective endeavours to achieve sustainable development. In this context, we believe that poverty eradication must be at the centre of the debate on the future we want;

85. We recognize that the definition of Sustainable Development Goals will contribute to give focus and direction to our collective efforts; in this regard we stress the importance of a successful process towards the establishment of

sustainable development goals, which follows up on the process launched at Rio+20, and to that end we reaffirm our commitment to collectively work in the context of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to be constituted under the United Nations General Assembly, aiming at the establishment of these goals;

86. Agree that Rio+20 helped raise awareness about the crucial importance of sustainable development throughout civil society, particularly among the youth. We are certain it will have a lasting impact not only on future discussions on sustainable development, but also in the way individuals, businesses and Governments understand and act on economic, social and environmental issues. Now future generations have a basis to push forward the construction of the sustainable world we envisaged in Rio;

87. Reaffirm that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, to which developing countries are particularly vulnerable, reiterate our call for urgent global action and cooperation for an effective international response to fight against the negative effects of climate change, and stress the importance of the full implementation of commitments under the Kyoto Protocol and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, on the basis of equity and in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities;

88. Stress the importance of enhanced ambition on the part of annex I parties to the Framework Convention under the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, while emphasizing that adaptation to climate change represents an immediate and urgent priority for developing countries;

89. Stress that South-South cooperation is based on solidarity and could be a useful tool to be used by member States to face the challenges of development and promote economic and social progress. In this sense, emphasize the wide opportunities for cooperation between member States in the exchange and strengthening of technical capacities in areas yet identified and prioritized, inter alia, the mapping and exploration of the Area in the framework of the International Seabed Authority, environmental cooperation, cooperation in the area of air and maritime transportation and port security;

90. Underline the importance of enhancing scientific and technical cooperation in the prioritized areas of interest and call for the consideration of further proposals for joint action;

Oceans and marine resources

91. Welcome the commitments on oceans and seas taken at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), in June 2012, in Rio de Janeiro, expressed in the outcome document of the Conference entitled "The future we want";

92. Also welcome the thirtieth anniversary of the opening for signature of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, on 10 December 1982 at Montego Bay, Jamaica, and recognize the contribution of the Convention to the strengthening of peace, security, cooperation and friendly relations among all nations, in conformity with the principles of justice and equal rights and to the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples of the world, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, recognize the importance of the United Nations

Convention on the Law of the Sea to advancing sustainable development and welcomes its nearly universal acceptance;

93. Recall the conclusions of the third preparatory workshop of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic held in Buenos Aires in 2007, devoted to the issues of sustainable use of marine genetic resources of areas beyond national jurisdiction and measures to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, as well as their support for the conservation of marine mammals and their wish to cooperate on the non-lethal use of cetaceans, and support, in this regard, within the scope of the International Whaling Commission, the proposal to establish the South Atlantic Whale Sanctuary;

94. Emphasize that the development of a legal regime to govern genetic marine resources of areas beyond national jurisdiction must be based on the relevant principles contained in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, recall the outcome document of Rio+20, especially its paragraph 162, and reaffirm our commitment to address, on an urgent basis and within the framework of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group established by the General Assembly, the issue of the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, including by taking a decision on the development of an implementing agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and continuing to coordinate positions on the basis of the relevant paragraphs of the ministerial declarations of the Group of 77 and China adopted on 23 September 2011 and on 28 September 2012. In this regard, also encourage the full involvement of the International Seabed Authority;

95. Acknowledge that the sustainable and equitable use of genetic marine resources presents an opportunity for cooperation among the member States of the Zone, and recall the need for access to technology and enhanced international cooperation to achieve the sustainable and equitable use of those resources;

96. Agree on the importance of continuing to coordinate positions regarding genetic marine resources of areas beyond national jurisdiction, including on the legal regime applicable to them, as well as access and benefit-sharing derived from the exploration and exploitation of those resources, which shall be carried out for the benefit of mankind as a whole, irrespective of the geographical location of States, in particular developing States, in the light of the mandate of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group established by the General Assembly to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction;

97. In that sense, welcome the conservation measures that coastal States are adopting regarding their continental shelf to address the impact of bottom fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems, as well as their efforts to ensure compliance with those measures;

98. Recall the 1996 decision adopted at the fourth Ministerial Meeting of the Zone on illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and express great concern over the continuation of such practices in the jurisdictional waters of member States of the Zone, and note that institutional capacities to deter, prevent and combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, as well as illegal spillage and dumping of toxic waste, should be strengthened, including through cooperation, assistance and research;

99. Recall the role ship crews play in protecting the maritime community in observing and reporting suspicious activities onboard their vessels and surrounding areas, welcome the adoption and continuing review, by the International Maritime Organization and the International Labour Organization, of guidelines on fair treatment of seafarers, and encourage all States, including States in the Zone, to put in place mechanisms protecting the human rights of seafarers;

100. Stress that one of the principal means to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing is responsible Flag and Port State measures consistent with international law;

101. Recall that States, in "The future we want", recognized the need for transparency and accountability in fisheries management by regional fisheries management organizations, recognize the efforts already made by those regional fisheries management organizations that have undertaken independent performance reviews, call upon all regional fisheries management organizations to regularly undertake such reviews and make the results publicly available, encourage implementation of the recommendations of such reviews, and recommend that the comprehensiveness of those reviews be strengthened over time, as necessary;

102. Stress the need for all member States of the Zone to maintain effective Flag State controls, including through the vessel monitoring system, and to prevent and combat the issuance of flags of convenience;

103. Express serious concern over subsidies to the fishing industry, particularly by developed countries, as they contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, fishing overcapacity and overfishing in the coastal waters of member States of the Zone, and recall that, in "The future we want", States reaffirmed their commitment in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation to eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and overcapacity, taking into account the importance of this sector to developing countries, and reiterate our commitment to conclude multilateral disciplines on fisheries subsidies that will give effect to the mandates of the World Trade Organization Doha Development Agenda and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration to strengthen disciplines on subsidies in the fisheries sector, including through the prohibition of certain forms of fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiations;

104. Call on member States of the Zone to develop programmes to help them benefit from increasing revenues from their fisheries resources in order to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in jurisdictional waters, in particular in African member States of the Zone;

105. Reaffirm the importance of implementing the 1993 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels in the High Seas as well as other FAO plans of action, and call upon those member States of the Zone that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the aforementioned FAO Agreement;

106. Emphasize the need to strengthen national institutions and their capacity through cooperation and joint research for the effective administration of fishing resources and the combat of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing;

107. Recall the 1994 declaration of the Zone on the marine environment adopted by the third Ministerial Meeting and the 1996 decision on the same issue adopted by fourth Ministerial Meeting, and underscore that pollution and toxic residues are a problem that should be dealt with, including through cooperation among the member States of the Zone;

International crime

108. Express concern at the threat that piracy and armed robbery at sea in the Gulf of Guinea pose to the international navigation, maritime security and economic development of States in the region, and recognize the leadership role that the States in the Zone should play in this regard and the need for a regional coordination of efforts to counter activities of piracy and armed robbery at sea;

109. Concerned by the damage being done to economic development efforts and the destruction of essential infrastructure, and urge support for multilateral efforts in the development of international legislation to track the origin and sale of stolen crude oil;

110. Urge international partners to assist States and organizations in the region to enhance their capabilities to counter piracy and armed robbery at sea in the Gulf of Guinea, including their capacity to conduct regional patrols, to establish and maintain joint coordination centres and joint information-sharing centres, and in the effective implementation of the regional strategy, once adopted, as mandated in United Nations Security Council resolutions 2018 (2011) and 2039 (2012);

111. Express their concern regarding the illicit traffic of drugs and psychotropic substances as well as transnational organized crime, and agree that high priority must be given to combating these problems as they represent a threat to the public security and development of member States and to the well-being of their peoples;

112. Recognize that transnational organized crime, human trafficking, particularly of women and children, money-laundering, corruption, piracy, drug trafficking and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons are interrelated, emphasize the need for comprehensive and integrated strategies within the Zone to effectively combat these scourges, and in this regard further emphasize that the implementation of national policies and strategies must be complemented by regional and international agreements, including among the member States of the Zone;

113. Recall the 1996 Decision of the Zone on drug trafficking adopted by the fourth Ministerial Meeting, and stress the need for cooperation among origin, transit and destination countries in combating illicit arms and drugs, as well as in reinforcing border security and control, taking into account the principle of common and shared responsibility;

114. Reiterate the commitment in deepening cooperation and articulating the joint actions of member States facing the world drug problem;

115. Stress the importance of advancing towards that objective in the framework of an integral approach, considering the reduction of supply and demand in a balanced manner, under the principle of common and shared responsibility, the respect of human rights and international law;

116. Urge States that have not done so to become parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three supplementary protocols;

Final provisions

117. Express gratitude to Brazil, Nigeria, South Africa and the Argentine Republic for their valuable work as previous coordinators of the Zone from 1998 to 2007;

118. Commend the Government of Angola for its significant contribution to the revitalization of the Zone, particularly by generating the "Luanda Initiative" as a road map for the preparatory process of the seventh Ministerial Meeting, comprising workshops on issues of common interest held in New York in March 2007, in Montevideo in April 2007, in Buenos Aires in May 2007 and in Brasilia in December 2010;

119. Express gratitude and appreciation to the Government and the people of Uruguay for their warm hospitality and generosity and the excellent arrangements made for the holding of the Meeting;

120. Agree to hold its Ministerial Meeting on a biennial basis;

121. Also agree to establish a follow-up mechanism under the joint leadership of the current and former Chairs of the Zone, as well as the Chair of the subsequent Ministerial Meeting;

122. Further agree to convene annual meetings of the Zone on the margins of the general debate of the United Nations General Assembly, and to review progress made and agree on further actions aimed at promoting the objectives of the Zone, including the annual submission of a United Nations General Assembly resolution on the initiative;

123. Welcome with appreciation the offer by the Government of Cape Verde to host the eighth Ministerial Meeting of the Zone;

124. Agree to adopt the Montevideo Plan of Action and request the current Chair to create the necessary conditions, including institutional ones, for its implementation.

Issued in Montevideo on 16 January 2013

Annex II to the letter dated 14 February 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Seventh Ministerial Meeting of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic

Montevideo Plan of Action

We, the Ministers of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic, hereinafter referred to as "the Zone", on the occasion of its seventh Ministerial Meeting, held in Montevideo, Uruguay, from 15 to 16 January 2013;

Recalling resolution 41/11 of the United Nations General Assembly, by which the Assembly solemnly declared the South Atlantic as a zone of peace and cooperation, and called all States of the zone to promote regional cooperation for social and economic development, the protection of the environment, the conservation of living resources, as well as the peace and security of the whole region;

Having realized the need for follow-up on the provisions of the Luanda Plan of Action, adopted by the sixth Ministerial Meeting, held in Luanda from 18 to 19 June 2007;

Welcoming the conclusions and recommendations of the round table held in Brasilia on 6 and 7 December 2010;

Also welcoming the role of cooperation agencies of member States in organizing national efforts aimed at enhancing cooperation within the Zone;

Highlighting South-South and triangular cooperation as valuable tools to be used by the Zone to address the challenges of development and to promote economic and social progress;

Having agreed to adopt the Montevideo Plan of Action, commit ourselves to ensuring its implementation as follows:

I. Mapping and exploration of the seabed

In order to encourage member States of the Zone to promote capacity-building for scientific research in evaluating the potential of mineral resources in the seabed, as well as the delimitation of continental shelf and the assessment of its mineral resources, including the identification of initiatives and programmes of cooperation within the Zone, agree to:

1. Establishment of the outer limit of the continental shelf: Exchange practices on the application of article 76 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, on the establishment by a coastal State of the outer edge of the continental margin wherever the margin extends beyond 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured;

2. The Area (seabed, ocean floors and subsoil beyond the limits of national jurisdiction): Intensify coordination at all levels within the International Seabed Authority, with a view to fully utilizing the opportunities it offers in promoting the participation of scientists from institutions in developing countries in marine

scientific research being undertaken in the Area by international research organizations;

3. Encourage the exchange of information among member States of the Zone on their ongoing programmes in this field, as well as on their willingness to cooperate with their peers.

II. Cooperation in the environmental area: Protection and preservation of the marine environment and marine living resources and marine scientific research

Stressing the crucial role of healthy marine ecosystems and sustainable fisheries for food security and nutrition, as recalled in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio de Janeiro, 20 to 22 June 2012), "The future we want", have agreed on the following coordinated actions:

1. Strengthen cooperative efforts to ensure that measures taken with regard to the high seas are compatible with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;

2. Study and address environmental factors affecting marine ecosystems, including adverse impacts of climate change and ocean acidification and coastal erosion;

3. Cooperate towards the development of capacity to participate in high-seas fisheries through the exchange of experiences and coordination in multilateral forums, as appropriate;

4. Strengthen cooperative efforts on marine scientific research in accordance with part XIII of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;

5. Promote greater benefits for the countries in the Zone from sustainable fisheries through the development of their own fisheries and the improvement of market access for their fisheries products;

6. Cooperate with a view to enhancing capacities, particularly in the areas of science, data collection and reporting, monitoring, control and surveillance, port and flag State control and fisheries conservation and management;

7. Exchange information on practices and policies aimed at avoiding adverse impacts of conservation and management measures on and ensuring access to fisheries by subsistence, small-scale and artisanal fisheries and women fish workers, as well as indigenous peoples in the context of the sustainable development of the sector;

8. Exchange practices with a view to reducing by-catch and adopt management measures in accordance with international law for those species that are caught as by-catch and then commercially traded;

9. Enhance cooperation to deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, including in the building of capacities to monitor, control and survey fishing activities;

10. Exchange best practices with respect to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity, taking into account that marine protected areas in areas

under national jurisdiction constitute an important tool for the sustainability of living marine resources;

11. Enhance coordination within the relevant processes under the United Nations General Assembly on biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction, such as the Ad-Hoc Working Group on marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction and the regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects, including by taking a decision on the development of an implementing agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

III. Cooperation in the area of air and maritime transportation and port security

Also agree to:

1. Enhance and diversify connectivity among member States of the Zone, both in terms of air and maritime transportation;

2. Identify synergies for further cooperation;

3. Identify measures to expand the scope of the application of the freedoms of the air, with a view to rendering connectivity between the two shores of the South Atlantic financially and economically viable;

4. Exchange experiences on the need for enhanced efficiency of ports, including the identification of possible solutions to silting.

IV. Cooperation on maritime safety and security

Also agree to:

1. Enhance cooperation among member States of the Zone on monitoring, control and surveillance of vessels, with a view to combating illicit activities, as well as transnational organized crime at sea in the South Atlantic, including through the exchange of data and training in the operation of the long range identification and tracking of ships;

2. Enhance cooperation on search and rescue capabilities.

V. Cooperation in the area of defence

Also agree to:

1. Increase interaction among their armed forces;

2. Exchange information on policy issues (for example, white papers on defence, national strategies and doctrines);

3. Consider ways and means to reinforce their naval and airborne capacities;

4. Promote joint military exercises in the South Atlantic among member States of the Zone;

5. Establish a Working Group on United Nations peacekeeping operations to further explore opportunities for cooperation among the member States of the Zone.

VI. Public security and combating transnational organized crime

Also agree to:

1. Cooperate in combating transnational organized crime in the Zone, as well as cybercrime, including exchange of experiences and best practices against money-laundering and assets recovery;

2. Promote cooperation among competent authorities and relevant institutions at the national level, including capacity-building activities;

3. Promote police and judicial cooperation among member States of the Zone;

4. Explore cooperation initiatives that could enhance the capacity to prosecute suspects and eliminate sources of financing for illicit activities;

5. Exchange experiences in the training of personnel responsible for security and law and order within the Zone;

6. Promote joint investigations and simultaneous operations among member States of the Zone in order to combat organized crime;

7. Take into account in these efforts the framework provided by the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime, which is a fundamental building block for international cooperation in combating transnational organized crime;

8. Promote cooperation and coordination of joint actions among member States of the Zone to address the global problem of drugs, through a comprehensive approach that addresses the reduction of both supply and demand.

VII. Other areas for cooperation and capacity-building

Also agree to:

1. Explore opportunities for cooperation in trade and investment facilitation and to consider the establishment of a working group for this purpose;

2. Exchange information and share cooperation opportunities among relevant institutions of member States of the Zone, including triangular cooperation efforts;

3. Consider instruments for enhanced educational cooperation, including cultural, scientific and technological agreements, with the aim of offering nationals from member States opportunities to study in other countries within the Zone;

4. Promote, when appropriate, information exchange between the Zone and other cooperation mechanisms in the region, including the Africa-South America Cooperation Forum, taking into account the possibility of extending or replicating initiatives undertaken by the Zone to other subregions in the two continents, and of developing projects complementary to those executed by member States to the extent possible and whenever appropriate, bearing in mind the different complexities, needs, mandates and membership of the different cooperation forums;

5. Promote additional technical cooperation and capacity-building initiatives in areas of common interest, such as planning and management in the coastal and marine zone, and oceanography in the tropical Atlantic region;

6. To promote seminars and/or meetings to allow for exchanges of information and cooperation in all the thematic areas included in the present Plan of Action, such as mapping and delimitation of continental shelves and seabeds, security and surveillance of maritime traffic, search and rescue operations at sea and peacekeeping operations, as well as South-South cooperation, maritime resources and environmental cooperation;

7. Deepen dialogue among member States of the Zone through the Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York or other relevant forums on issues of the international peace and security agenda, including peacebuilding;

8. Ensure that the Zone has the adequate mechanisms to implement and follow up its decisions.

Adopted in Montevideo on 15 January 2013

Annex III to the letter dated 14 February 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Seventh Ministerial Meeting of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic

Declaration about the Democratic Republic of the Congo

We, the Heads of Delegation of the Member States of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic, meeting on 15 and 16 January 2013, in Montevideo, strongly welcome the commitment of the members of the Zone to fully observe and promote the principles and objectives of the Charter of the United Nations in favour of peace and security;

We reaffirm the fundamental role of diplomacy with a view to preventing conflicts, as well as to maintain and consolidate peace and security in the world;

We express our strong concern about this situation affecting the Democratic Republic of the Congo and strongly condemn the attacks and violations by the March 23 Movement, which have caused and continue to cause thousands of victims among the population to the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

We reaffirm and express our solidarity with the Democratic Republic of the Congo and call upon the international community to further intensify its efforts to cooperate with the Democratic Republic of the Congo in dealing effectively with the root causes of threats to peace and security in the Great Lakes Region;

The members of the Zone commend the active steps taken by the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to implement its mandate and encourage its continuation. In this regard, they welcomed the contribution by member States of the Zone, particularly Uruguay, in the United Nations peacekeeping efforts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

While recognizing the close interrelation between security and development in achieving sustainable peace, we encourage the efforts by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo with a view to reorganizing its economy and pursuing efficiently the fight against poverty and establishing, with the support of its partners, the foundations of its development.

Montevideo, 15 January 2013

Annex IV to the letter dated 14 February 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Seventh Ministerial Meeting of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic

Declaration regarding the situation in Guinea-Bissau

Gathered in Montevideo on 15 and 16 January 2013. the Heads of Delegation to the seventh Ministerial Meeting of the Member States of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic reviewed the situation in Guinea-Bissau and, in line with the press statement of the United Nations Secretary-General dated 13 December 2012, expressed serious concern at the persistent political and institutional crisis affecting the country.

They regretted the severe socioeconomic hardships endured by the citizens of Guinea-Bissau and reiterated the need for the urgent restoration of constitutional order, with respect for political freedoms and human rights, and for the development of a comprehensive strategy of stabilization of the country, including the reform of its security and defence sectors.

The Heads of delegation expressed appreciation for the sustainable efforts made by the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries and recalled, in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolution 2048 (2012) the need for all relevant players to actively and closely cooperate and coordinate towards overcoming current challenges.

The Heads of delegation also welcomed the sending of the joint assessment mission by the United Nations, the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States, the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries and the European Union to Guinea-Bissau and expressed their confidence that its report will be a significant step in the efforts of international partners to help Guinea-Bissau make substantial and timely progress in returning to institutional order.

The Heads of delegation welcomed the designation by the Secretary-General of the United Nations of former Timorese President Ramos Horta as his Special Representative in Guinea-Bissau and expressed their full support for his mission.

Montevideo, 15 January 2013